



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

22 FEBRUARY 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Bakersfield – Nearly \$13M in Marijuana Seized, Five Men Arrested in Bust

(U) Nearly \$13 million in illegal marijuana plants were seized and five men were arrested, according to the Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO). KCSO says deputies served a search warrant at a large industrial property in North Bakersfield. Inside the illegal grow, deputies found 4,306 "high grade" marijuana plants. The sheriff's office said they are valued at \$12.9 million. The five men were booked into the Kern County jail for cultivation of marijuana, possession of marijuana for purpose of sales and conspiracy, officials said.

SOURCE: 19 February 2021, [KGET](#)

(U) Sacramento – Man Accused of Attempting to Provide Financial Support to Terrorist Group

(U) A Sacramento man is accused of attempting to provide financial support to a foreign terrorist organization, the United States Department of Justice announced. A federal grand jury last week returned a single-count indictment against Murat Kurashev, 34, who is also a Russian national, according to Attorney McGregor W. Scott. Kurashev allegedly tried to provide financial support to terrorist organization Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, which is based in Syria. Kurashev was arrested by FBI agents and awaits his next court appearance. If convicted, he faces up to 20 years in prison and \$250,000 in fines.

SOURCE: 19 February 2021, [CBS Sacramento](#)

(U) Sonoma – Police Arrest Suspect in Series of Arson Fires

(U) A 36-year-old woman was arrested after deputies responded to a report of a vehicle fire. When deputies arrived, they found a Honda Accord fully engulfed in flames. Deputies recognized the vehicle as belonging to the suspect. The Sonoma Valley Fire Department responded to the fire and determined that it had been deliberately set. The sheriff's department's property crimes unit were able to link the suspect with four recent arson fires, the locations included two residences, one garbage dumpster and one vehicle. The suspect was arrested and booked into Sonoma County Jail for charges that include arson and probation violation.

SOURCE: 20 February 2021, [Mercury News](#)

(U) Sonoma – Seven Arrested, 19 Pounds of Meth Seized

(U) An investigation by the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office and the federal Drug Enforcement Administration led to the arrests of seven people and the seizure of about 19 pounds of methamphetamine, packaging material and \$12,000 in cash were recovered, officials said. Five suspects were booked into the Sonoma County jail. Christian Mondragon-Mendoza, 22, and Aida Sanchez-Lopez, 23, both of Santa Rosa, were booked for felony possession of a controlled substance for sale, felony transporting of a controlled substance, felony transporting of a controlled substance for sale, and felony conspiracy, and are being held on \$100,000 bail.

SOURCE: 21 February 2021, [NBC Bay Area](#)

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(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Six Affiliated with the Oath Keepers Indicted by Federal Grand Jury

(U) Washington – Six additional individuals associated with an organization known as the Oath Keepers, some of whose members were among those who forcibly entered the US Capitol on 6 January, were arrested and charged in federal court for conspiring to obstruct the United States Congress's certification of the result of the 2020 US Presidential Election. The indictment alleges that the six suspects donned paramilitary gear and gathered in a military-style "stack" formation that marched up the center steps on the east side of the US Capitol, breached the door at the top, and then stormed the building.

SOURCE: 19 February 2021, [US DoJ](#)

(U) Florida – FBI Investigating Suspicious Letters Sent to Big Bend, South Georgia Schools

(U) Leon County – The FBI is looking into three separate cases involving threats mailed to schools in the Big Bend area and South Georgia. Thomasville Police say someone sent two letters with a "chemical-type threat" to the staff. On 17 February, Wakulla High School received a similar letter. As a precaution, Leon County Schools is issuing guidance to all its principals on how to handle suspicious packages. Now the FBI is investigating who is behind those suspicious packages.

SOURCE: 19 February 2021, [WTLX](#)

(U) Pennsylvania – North Cornwall Township Police Officer Charged for Role in US Capitol Riot

(U) Lebanon County – North Cornwall Township Police Officer Joseph Fischer, 54, has been arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is facing charges for his role in the 6 January US Capitol riot. Fischer is charged with obstruction of law enforcement during civil disorder, knowingly entering or remaining inside a restricted building, violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds, and obstruction of justice/Congress, according to a complaint affidavit released by the FBI. The FBI said Fischer was charged when investigators learned a Facebook user bragged about entering the Capitol building during the riot and posted a video in which he can be seen at the front of a pack pushing against police outside the building.

SOURCE: 19 February 2021, [Fox43](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Afghanistan – Roadside Bombs Kill Three, Wound 20

(U) Kabul – Separate roadside bomb explosions in Afghanistan killed at least three people including a child and wounded 20 others, Afghan officials said. Kabul police spokesman Ferdaws Faramarz said that a roadside bomb explosion targeted a police car, killing the driver and a nearby child as well as wounding five other civilians. The second explosion was caused by a bomb placed in a crowded market in southern Helmand province, killing one civilian and wounding 15 others including two police officers.

SOURCE: 21 February 2021, [AP News](#)

(U) Democratic Republic of Congo – Italian Ambassador, Police Officer and Driver Killed in Attack

(U) Goma – The Italian ambassador to Congo, an Italian carabinieri police officer and their Congolese driver were killed in an attack on a UN convoy in an area that is home to myriad rebel groups, the Foreign Ministry said. The ambush occurred as the convoy was travelling from Goma, Congo's eastern regional capital, to visit a World Food Program school feeding project in Rutshuru, the UN agency said in a statement. Ambassador Luca Attanasio, Italy's ambassador to the country since 2017, carabinieri officer Vittorio Lacovacci and their driver were killed.

SOURCE: 22 February 2021, [CBS News](#)

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(U) Germany – Police Arrest Man Suspected of Sending Package Bombs

(U) Berlin – A 66-year-old man has been taken into custody on suspicion he was behind three package bombs sent to food manufacturers and retailers, authorities said. He is suspected of being responsible for a package bomb that exploded last week at the offices of discount grocery store Lidl, injuring three people. A second package bomb that exploded at the headquarters of food company ADM Wild injured one person. A third device addressed to baby food company Hipp was intercepted in Bavaria and defused.

SOURCE: 20 February 2021, [ABC News](#)

(U) Libya – Libyan Interior Minister Escapes Shooting Attack on Motorcade

(U) Tripoli – Gunmen opened fire on the motorcade of Libyan Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha in the capital Tripoli, but he escaped unharmed, a source close to Bashagha said. The assailants fired heavily on Bashagha's convoy as he drove through western Tripoli after visiting the National Oil Corporation and the headquarters of the ministry's law enforcement force. Bashagha's guards exchanged fire with the attackers before pursuing them, killing one, injuring another and arresting two.

SOURCE: 21 February 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.

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